

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A decolorized yeast cell wall fraction prepared by decolorizing cell residue obtained by removing internal soluble cell components from enzyme-treated yeast, or cell residue obtained by further treating the cell residue with acid solution and removing acid solution-soluble components, by using a decolorizing agent, and washing with water or organic solvent;

whose yellow index (YI) of the liquid measured by a reflective method with the use of SE-2000 of Nippon Denshoku [[~~(I)~~] , with illumination C, field of view 2 degree [~~D~~]] , is 13 or less ;

and whose oxygen permeability is 250 ml/m² d MPa or less at a humidity of 60% RH when 5 % (weight ratio) slurry of the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction is cast using a baker applicator, on an oriented-polypropylene film Senesi-POP of Daicel Chemical Industries, at a film membrane thickness of 0.02 mm, dried for 45 minutes in an oven at 60 °C to make a casting film whose film membrane thickness is approximately 0.015 mm;

said decolorized yeast cell wall fraction having a cell wall retaining property, and having a property to form continuous film;

wherein a disintegration time of the continuous film formed from the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction in pure water is within 60 minutes when 5 % (weight ratio) slurry of the decolorized yeast cell wall is dried for 2 hours at 60 °C in a circular container with a diameter of 60 mm to make a casting film with a film membrane thickness of approximately 0.1 mm.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method for producing ~~the~~ a decolorized yeast cell wall fraction ~~according to Claim 1, wherein the fraction is prepared by the method comprising:~~

decolorizing cell residue which is obtained by removing internal soluble cell components from enzyme-treated yeast, or cell residue which is obtained by further treating

the cell residue with acid solution [[,]] and removing acid solution-soluble components, by using a decolorizing treatment with a decolorizing agent; and

washing the decolorized cell residue with water or organic solvent.

6. (Currently amended) The method for producing the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction according to Claim 5, wherein the decolorizing treatment ~~by using a~~ with the decolorizing agent is a decolorizing treatment with hydrogen peroxide and ozone.

7. (Previously presented) A coating agent whose primary component is the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction according to Claim 1.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of producing the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction according to Claim 6, wherein the decolorizing treatment ~~by using~~ with a decolorizing agent is a decolorizing treatment with ozone and then hydrogen peroxide.

10. (New) The method for producing the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction according to Claim 5, wherein the internal soluble cell components removed from the enzyme-treated yeast are removed by treating the yeast with one or more enzymes selected from the group consisting of proteases, nucleases, β -glucanase, esterases, lipases, and phosphatase which are commonly used in the manufacture of common yeast extract.

11. (New) The method for producing the decolorized yeast cell wall fraction according to Claim 5, wherein the further treatment of the cell residue with acid solution is a treatment with a solution of an acid selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and an organic acid selected from the group consisting of acetic acid and citric acid.